Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Has the Government considered the desirability of giving extra ration during the Christmas?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Why? It is necessary.

PRICE OF PADDY—RAISING OF

9. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the very disappointing results of harvest this year for the first crop;

(*b*) whether in view of the bad returns of agriculture and the consequent loss to the agriculturist the Government will be pleased to place the purchasing price of paddy on a level at least with the neighbouring State of Travancore?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The price of paddy was revised very recently by increasing the price to Rs. 1—6—0. per para.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know, Sir, the price then prevailing in the adjoining places of Travancore according to Government control rates?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The rate in Travancore was Re. 1—8—0 according to Travancore para which worths at Re. 1—6—10·6 pies according to our para.

DRAINAGE—ERNAKULAM AND MATTANCHERI—IMPROVEMENT OF

10. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any scheme for improving the drainage system of Ernakulam and Mattancheri?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The question of improving the drainage of Ernakulam and Mattancheri has engaged the attention of the Government. The preliminary investigation of the scheme has been completed. Further work on it has been postponed for the duration of the war.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Have the Government a fully prepared drainage scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The investigation of the scheme has been completed and estimated and quantities also have been prepared. The cost had not been calculated and some minor details have to be completed.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, for how many years has this drainage scheme for Mattancheri been pending with the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: During the last 20 years. We have been taking up the improvement of the Towns of Ernakulam and Mattancheri steadily. We thought that a supply of drinking water was a much greater necessity in Mattancheri than the drainage and that also was a large proposition. We have now completed that work. And then we have taken the question of drainage and it is only recently that the expert came and the investigations completed. Before we actually decided on the question, conditions became difficult and so the scheme was postponed.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Thank you for the information. My question was for how many years this drainage scheme has been pending?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It is not possible to say for how many years. According to me, it would have been pending with the beginning of civilisation.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: How many Diwans have dealt with the drainage scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, when you came to office as Chief Engineer was the drainage scheme pending?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It was not pending.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: How many years after you took charge did this scheme come up for consideration?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The scheme came up for consideration 6 or 7 years ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem *Mattancheri)*: May I know whether there was a special Engineer brought down to work out an under-ground drainage scheme in Mattancheri?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes. That was about 6 years ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know the name of the gentleman?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Mr. A. V. Rama Ayyar of Madras P. W. D.

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